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Robert I. Livingston, Esq.
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Re: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
James Earl Ray Case

Dear Mr. Livingston:

I know the source of the information that you received indicating that I might be helpful in connection with your defense in the James Earl Ray case.

I am afraid that I would be of no great value to you. I did work on the case since I was assigned to the Atlanta office of the FBI at the time Dr. King was murdered. Since I retired from the FBI I have made some critical comments regarding the Bureau and much of what I had to say involved what I believed to be the improper or perhaps illegal use of wire tap information concerning Dr. King by the FBI.

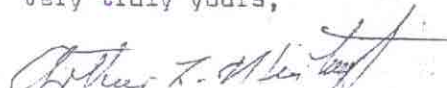
Regarding the Ray case, from my vantage point and what I knew of the case, I had little doubt but that Ray was involved in the murder of Dr. King. However, I also have little doubt but that had the FBI been willing to proceed with adequate investigation of the whole affair a great deal of information relating to Ray's participation could have been uncovered. It is my feeling that if this had been done it would have lead to revelations indicating a carefully planned conspiracy. It is my ~~feeling~~ that the conspiracy would have been masterminded by Right wing extremists and in all probability involved links to the Kennedy murders, particularly John F. Kennedy, and many other things of this nature.

The Bureau was not administratively structured so as to permit intensive investigation of espionage activity from the Right. All assumptions on direction were made from the vantage point that the enemy was from the Left. There also was the habit or in a sense defense raised by my contemporaries that the jurisdiction of the Bureau in a matter like Rays should be strictly construed and that once Ray was identified and connected with the murder that was the end of it.

I am hopeful that some day there will be some dramatic breaks in this sordid period of our history and many of the uncovered leads will end up being run out and the source of the conspiracy identified.

If you have some specific questions I can help you with, I would be glad to respond.

Very truly yours,


Arthur L. Murtagh, Esq.